



GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JUNE 2018 VOLUME 9 ISSUE 6

\$2

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Y REPUBLIC
GIFTS

own in Michigan.
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ched Worldwide.

Joe
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revealed
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Poor People's Campaign – propelling poverty, injustice into public consciousness



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

When it seems acceptable that 43 percent of the U.S. population lives near or below the poverty line, when 13.8 million U.S. households can't afford water, when 250,000 people in the United States die from poverty or poverty-related issues, and when the Michigan legislature aims to increase obstacles poor people face in getting health care while the health outcomes in the area are so bad that Detroit was eliminated from competition for the new Army headquarters, it's time to explode that perception of normal.

The Poor People's Campaign (PPC) is publicizing such accounts and engaging in civil disobedience on Mondays in capitals around the nation. These rallies have come to be known as "Moral Mondays." Michigan got on the PPC radar first because it is one of the 23 states that passed voter suppression

laws since 2010. PPC is a non-political, non-partisan group that encourages voting and opposes voter suppression but does not endorse any party or candidates.

An estimated 200 people attended the PPC kickoff rally and protest in Lansing on May 14. Many attendees reported high personal stakes in the campaign. Rebeca Fritz, a single mother from Benton Harbor, described the fear of losing her children during a period of homelessness when they were reduced to living in a storage shed.

Jim Mogensen of Ann Arbor shared the impediments faced by him and others with disabilities. "What seem like small barriers to most people can become huge obstacles for those with physical, emotional and monetary challenges," said Mogensen. "The caseworkers are completely overwhelmed with too many clients and forms. While processing my spend-down Medicaid paperwork, I had phone appointments where nobody ever called, unhelpful receptionists and two-sided forms that could only be turned in on single-sided paper. As a result, the system breaks down so that even people who qualify can't get the help that they need. It's time to work for peace and justice and respect the dignity of every person."

Following the rally, 33 people blocked an intersection in front of the Capitol, risking arrest. However, police rerouted traffic and left protesters in peace. More than 200 people were arrested or cited in Washington, D.C. and seven other state capitols. Sixteen people were arrested by Michigan State Police the following Monday, May 21, when they blocked the doors at a Lansing Department of Health and Human Services administration building.

"Moral Monday" protests will continue through June 18. Lansing rallies begin at 2:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.michiganppc.org.

Two stories of struggle that came out of Detroit share the Great Recession as background, but their struggles continue today.

Water woes

Nicole grew up in Louisiana in a military household. She came to Detroit after Hurricane Katrina destroyed her home, for which she received no compensation, and the Texas area to which she had been relocated was also inundated with hurricanes. Her disaster experiences prompted her to return to college and get a BA, majoring in

Homeland Security. She graduated with a \$67,000 debt but no job prospects.

She worked two part-time jobs, which left her little time with her children but did enable her to buy a home in Detroit. She dropped one job as her children needed her more. They were getting by. Then in 2014, her water and that of most of her neighbors was precipitously cut off, despite the fact that she had been paying \$200-300 per month on her water bill. In response to her complaint, the Detroit Water Board Department said she had a \$3,000 bill.

Incredulous, Nicole immediately went to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for assistance. They also called the water department and were told the bill was \$5,000! DHS said there was nothing they could do to help pay the bill but having no water in the house was grounds for removing Nicole's children.

On the advice of friends, she contacted all the local media outlets. Only Channel 4 responded. It was such a common story that they were only interested in covering it if her water actually got turned back on.

Nicole sent her children to live with relatives but they soon returned after her seven-year-old snuck out of the house and tried hitchhiking home. They scraped by with purchased bottled water. Her asthma and that of two of her kids worsened from mild dehydration and the undiluted cleaning products they were using to keep the home clean.

Delirious, Nicole was hospitalized and promptly quarantined as doctors thought she had Ebola. It turned out to be bacterial pneumonia to which she was susceptible due to the asthma, and it permanently further compromised her lungs.

Thanks to some investigating by Ann Whale of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Nicole learned she had paid \$2,800 to the water department over the course of two years. How did her bill get so high? One theory

is that when the department allowed broken water mains to spew water for days on end, they split the bill among everyone in the neighborhood.

Undone by accident

Returning from a vacation in the summer of 2005, Baba Baxter was in a terrible car accident that left him unable to walk even after extensive rehab. He pushed himself hard since he was anxious to return to his work as a coach and gym teacher in the Detroit Public School System.

The school principal rejected his return, citing his inability to demonstrate sports skills. He was unmoved by Baxter's assertion that seeing perseverance and adjustment in the face of hardships were also important. Baxter bounced around from school to school for four years with no one wanting to keep him. Then the City and schools came under the control of an Emergency Financial Manager and Baba was laid off with hundreds of other teachers, despite his seniority, as they "cut the fat." (Detroit schools' deficit actually doubled under control of Emergency Financial Managers.)

Baxter appealed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, claiming that he was let go because of his disability but they said his claim did not qualify. His mortgage had a catastrophic incident clause in it but they said his accident did not qualify. He was denied unemployment compensation for more than a year because they said he was unable to work and so did not qualify.

see PPC, page 7

Consider the robins when weighing risk



by Rev Dr.
Martha Brunell
Groundcover
Contributor

Spring was a late arrival this year on the prairies of Illinois, as it was among the woodlands and lakes of Michigan. Cold and gray persisted all the way through April. Monarch butterflies making their springtime migration north from Mexico were stalled for a month well south of here. The lack of warmth meant the milkweed – the host plant on which they lay their eggs and monarch caterpillars feed – had not come up. Warmth crept back into the air slowly as the morning skies finally began to fill with birdsong.

The property where I live is densely populated with robins in the spring and

summer. Just recently I have spotted a few eggshell halves on the ground colored the unmistakable speckled light blue of the robin's egg. Over the course of the warm months each year, a mated pair of robins will lay, sit on and hatch several clutches of eggs, and feed the young birds continually before leading awkward fledglings on their journey into flying competency. Over the weeks this requires, the older birds are committed parents.

Two years ago, a pair of robins crafted a nest right at the bend in the drainpipe on the front of the parsonage. I had a ringside seat then for the care and development of young birds. One evening when the nest was crowded with growing baby birds, I got to see one of them straddle the nest on shaky legs and then let go into thin air. It happened in a second; I was in the right place at the right time. It made me wonder then and makes me wonder today about our

moments of reaching the edge where we haven't been before and finding whatever it is that is necessary for us to take the leap.

I discovered a new picture book a few weeks back called "If I Never Forever Endeavor." It features a youthful yellow bird weighing the pros and cons of leaving the nest behind. This particular bird feels the pull to fly, but potential dangers, possibilities of failure and a marked lack of flight experience cause the bird to hesitate. Safety then seems mighty attractive. But in the end the bird does step out and dare to try out untested wings. What I have learned while reading up on robins is that it takes several weeks of trying for flight to be truly successful. The first leap from the nest is not one that delivers immediate and satisfactory results. Flight, like so many other new efforts, has to start somewhere.

In these fruitful days of late spring and summer, I commend to our attention all the immature flyers around us. They can never begin to learn the marvels of flying until that first bold or foolish step is taken. And they do have to keep at it for a while before they are any good at soaring on the air currents.

In each of our lives, no matter our age, there is something new encouraging us to risk being beginners again, launching out in an unexplored direction, unsure whether we will succeed or not. Can we depart from the nest, the familiar place and past that are no longer enough for who we are, who we are becoming and what we are capable of? Will we take a chance of discovering our own version of flight? It is my hope that, our answers to these questions are yes and yes. What a gift to behold one another gliding into a new flight pattern.

Miriam Lindsey, Groundcover Vendor #6, left her mark

by Susan Beckett

Miriam Lindsey was one of a kind, well-known among business owners and downtown patrons from Ypsilanti to Ann Arbor. She was Groundcover News Vendor #6 and was instrumental in getting us off the ground, recruiting other vendors and drawing in customers with her passion and success.

She was a strong-headed woman who spoke her mind. Miriam was also generous and strove to uplift her community. One Christmas she gave 20 copies of Groundcover News to every active Groundcover vendor. Her friend Griffith Dick (Griff) recalled her story of her quick tongue admonishing three young men on Wash-

tenaw Ave. about their appearance and glorification of prison culture. She told them they were better than that and should take care to show it. In retrospect, she was relieved she left uninjured. Months later, one of those men, now well-groomed, recognized her and thanked her for speaking to them that way. He said he'd never had anyone in his life who cared how he turned out and that she had made a difference with him.

Appearances mattered to Miriam. She was always neat and clean and took pains to present herself well. She took it on herself to get new winter gear emblazoned with the Groundcover logo by Elmo at his t-shirt shop. She went to Kolossos Printing to create a professional-looking laminated sign

explaining Groundcover News to potential customers. She wanted everyone to know that when she was out selling Groundcover, she was working.

Miriam prided herself on overcoming the obstacles she faced from a lifetime of epilepsy and the privations she suffered as a result. She valued learning and educated herself at every opportunity. She participated in classes and counseling to manage her anger. Her dog Roscoe proved the most effective therapy. Miriam took exceptional care

see MIRIAM, page 6



Miriam Lindsey, 1950-2018
Groundcover Vendor #6

GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



June 2018 EVENTS at Bethlehem Church:

June 7 Bethlehem Prayer Circle - 11:30-12:15, lounge
June 9 German Pretzel Sales - 10:30 - 12, \$1 or \$10 dozen
Call to pre-order at 734-665-6149
June 12 49 Bells to toll at noon, for the 49 lives lost at Pulse Night Club
June 12 Lifeline Screening - 10-4, dining hall (1-866-229-0469 for appt.)
June 13 Wellness Wednesday with Lily - 11:30 a.m.
June 18 Alzheimer's presentation at Bethlehem - 7:00 gallery
June 21 Bethlehem Prayer Circle - 11:30-12:15, lounge
June 25-28 Habitat Mission Trip, Flint, MI
June 30 Red Cross Blood Drive - 10-4, lounge
June 30 Philippine Art and Culture Concert - 7:00, sanctuary

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
is an Open and Affirming congregation.
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on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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8:30 a.m. Chapel
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Sunday school
Coffee Connection
follows each service

Jimena Loveluck leads on Washtenaw County Health Dept. equity initiatives

by Rasna Neelam

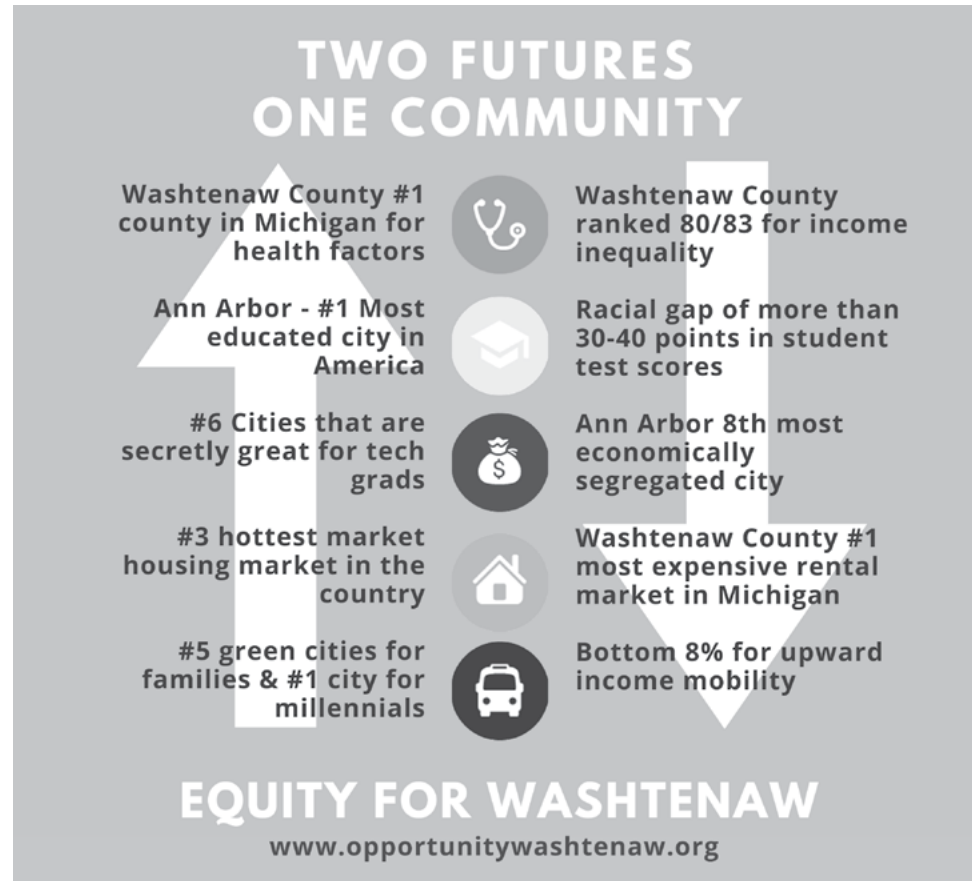
Groundcover Contributor

Earlier this year, the Washtenaw County Health Department named Jimena Loveluck as the County's first Deputy Health Officer. The role, which was created to help guide a community-wide vision of health and equity, aligns with Loveluck's vision for the Health Department's larger goals of promoting and protecting the health of all Washtenaw County community members as well as ensuring that all people have "the resources and access to achieve the best state of health and well-being."

Loveluck's emphasis on a need for access is echoed by recent findings in the Michigan County Health Rankings released March 14 of this year. While Washtenaw County has the most doctors in the state and ranks as the fourth-healthiest county in Michigan in terms of life-expectancy and quality of life, it is the eighth most economically segregated metropolitan region in the country. According to the study, there is a 10-year gap in life expectancy between African American and white residents of Washtenaw County and a 16-year gap between Latino and white residents.

Although these statistics seem daunting, Loveluck is working closely with the many clinical and community services and programs across the county to make changes that better the health of Washtenaw residents.

A prominent example of this change is an initiative called "One Community: Advancing Racial Equity in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County," which launched in January 2018. The program is intended to provide government leadership and education on actions leading to racial equity. Such actions



include the development of community services and programs promoting racial equity, incorporating equitable hiring practices, developing new service delivery models and increasing interaction with the public and community partners.

Another example Loveluck highlighted is community engagement. In the program, health department employees are working with six communities – including neighborhoods along MacArthur Boulevard, the Latinx community, Southside Ypsilanti, Whitmore Lake, West Willow, and Ypsilanti youth – to identify health issues important to that particular region. Recent community conversations in Whitmore Lake identified problems such as limited health clinics and pharmacies, a lack of public transportation and safe places to exercise, limited availability of fresh food,

and the opioid epidemic as some of their health priorities. Once they identified these priorities, they were able to create ideas for action and a vision for a healthier community that included a local campaign on available resources, education regarding nutrition, physical activity, first aid and more.

Finally, the "All are Welcome Here" campaign, launched in 2017, aims at making sure everyone feels safe walking through the doors of the Washtenaw County Health Department. The campaign includes posters and educational materials in seven different languages throughout the building to affirm that all are welcome. "Our programs and services are available to everyone in Washtenaw County, regardless of immigration status, language, race, ethnicity, sexuality or gender identity," said Ellen

Rabinowitz, health officer at the health department. "It would be devastating to the health of our entire community if individuals were afraid to seek services or participate in prevention or protection programs."

These are three examples of a multitude of programs working to provide equitable health resources to the community. Throughout this process, Loveluck stresses the importance of working in partnership with communities so that community members' voices come through. Loveluck, who was raised in Ann Arbor and spent over 15 years in HIV/AIDS work in the county before taking this role, is no stranger to the Washtenaw County community and says she is excited to take on this new challenge and continue to connect with community members throughout the county.

Information regarding the range of the many services the health department provides – including educational materials, locations of clinics and services, help with health insurance, notices regarding emergencies and information about how to get in touch – is available on the department's new website, www.washtenaw.org/health. Additionally, a page on "Health Equity" can be found under the "About Us" tab on the website's homepage.

"We want people to be aware of the health department's extensive services and resources available to residents," Loveluck said. "The health department serves the community every day." In addition to the website, information regarding community meetings can be found by following the Washtenaw County Health Department's Facebook page by the same name.

Protect yourself from Lyme Disease especially when sleeping outdoors

by Steven Gabriel

Groundcover Contributor

Although everyone is vulnerable to tick bites, certain populations are at greater risk, including campers, hikers and others who spend a lot of time outdoors.

Changes to the environment have caused ticks to migrate into areas where they were not found in the past, including our community. Last year, Washtenaw County was classified as a "red zone" area for the first time, meaning there is a known risk of Lyme disease caused by tick bites. The county saw 17 reported cases in 2017, which is on par with areas of western Michigan where Lyme disease is most prevalent. This habitat range expansion is important to consider this summer, as ticks can transmit infections to humans and pets.

However, not all ticks are capable of causing Lyme. First, the main culprits are black-legged tick species (popularly known as deer ticks). Deer ticks (*see sidebar*) are about the size of a sesame seed (the nymphs are as small as a poppy seed); the similarly common wood tick is conspicuously larger and easy to distinguish from its nefarious counterpart. Second, not all deer ticks are carriers – Lyme disease is transmitted when a tick becomes infected with the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria after biting an animal like a deer or a rodent. If that tick then bites you or your pet, the bacteria can enter your system and create a systemic infection.

Ticks can be found in wooded areas, tall grasses, under leaf litter and around stone walls and fencing. In recent years, the number of reported cases of Lyme disease in the United States has risen dramatically, with the Centers for Disease Control estimating around 300,000 new cases of Lyme disease each year – 10 times more than what is reported! It may be difficult to check your body for ticks if spending the night outdoors, but there are still ways to protect yourself from bites.

How to protect yourself

- Avoid heavily wooded areas or those with tall grass and leaf litter
- Use bug netting and wear long-sleeved shirts/pants if sleeping outside
- Wear an insect repellent containing at least 20 percent DEET
- Check your clothing and body often for ticks using a magnifier. Some battery-powered magnifiers have a built-in light to assist tick checks in the dark.
- Also check your pets, even if they are on flea and tick prevention medicine.

Preventing Lyme disease is as easy as checking your body and clothing frequently for the presence of ticks. In order to develop Lyme disease, an infected tick must be attached to you for 36 to 48 hours. If the tick is removed within 48 hours, it is unlikely that you will develop Lyme disease, even if the tick carries the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria. Remember, ticks can hide in

hair, so check areas like your scalp and armpits!

How to remove a tick

It is important to remove ticks properly:

- Use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible
- Pull upward with gentle pressure, being careful to keep the tick intact
- Clean the bite area with soap and water
- Place the tick in a sealed bag or container

The longer Lyme disease is left untreated, the greater the risk of developing more severe symptoms. Given that there is no vaccine to prevent Lyme disease, it is important to avoid being bitten altogether. Watch for the following symptoms if you have been bitten by a tick and seek medical attention right away if symptoms persist (*see sidebar*).

The overwhelming majority of cases of Lyme disease are reported in the summer months when ticks are most active and people spend more time outdoors. However, tick bites can occur in any season, so check for ticks year-round. To protect yourself, take precautions against being bitten, search for ticks thoroughly, remove them promptly and watch for symptoms of Lyme disease. If you follow these simple precautions, you have no need to fear the outdoors.

Lyme Disease

Early Signs and Symptoms (3-30 days after bite):

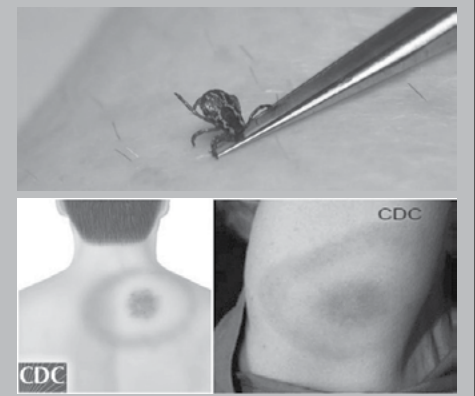
- fever
- chills
- headache
- fatigue
- muscle and joint aches
- a "bull's-eye" skin rash called erythema migrans (not present in 20-30 percent of cases)

Late Signs and Symptoms (days-months after bite)

- severe headaches and neck stiffness
- extreme fatigue
- nerve pain/arthritis
- heart palpitations or an irregular heartbeat
- episodes of dizziness and short-term memory loss
- muscle spasms and facial paralysis (known as Bell's palsy)

Top: proper tick removal

Bottom: typical bullseye rash



Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Kloné © 2018

Well, looks like one of our least favorite holidays is coming up.

That's not fair, mom. Some fathers are much better than the one you're still hatin'.

I have my reasons.

Whatever. Just because he was a jerk to us doesn't mean all dads are bad. There are some who do more and deserve respect. That's the real point of Father's Day.

I guess I'll have to take your word for it.

Bitter much? What about the man who adopted us both so we could stay together? Isn't he still here for us?

Well, there is that.

See! Try showing a little gratitude for the gifts you receive rather than complaining about the ones you don't.*

**And a Happy Father's Day to all the men willing to be Dads.*

Quick and easy cheesy asparagus

by Elizabeth Bauman

Groundcover Contributor

Ingredients

2 pounds medium-sized asparagus
4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
5 scant tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan cheese

2 teaspoon lemon zest

Salt and freshly ground pepper

Directions

Fill medium saucepan halfway with lightly salted water and bring to a boil. Rinse asparagus thoroughly. Snap off and discard any tough ends of aspara-



gus. Cut into 1- to 2-inch sections, slicing at a diagonal. Add the asparagus to boiling water, reduce heat to maintain simmer for 2 minutes. Then drain the hot water. Toss the asparagus, while still hot, in a bowl with olive oil, Parmesan

and lemon zest. Salt and pepper to taste.

Serve warm or at room temperature.

Serves eight.

Joe Woods, Vendor #103, revealed

by Tabitha L.

Groundcover Vendor #360

First, I want to say happy birthday (June 8th) to the love of my life – Joe Woods, Vendor #103. I'm going to take some time to tell all of you why this man is so amazing in my eyes. He is a hard worker and has a great soul. He helps everyone he can and he will give his last to someone if they need it. He doesn't look down on anyone for the things they do.

I know a lot of people's first impression of him from just looking at him is that he must be a drug dealer, but he is not. He is actually one of the biggest dorks and nerds I have ever met and he is also just a real big kid. He loves Star Wars and he is a huge Celtics fan. So don't get scared if/when the Celtics win and you see him on the streets yelling Celtic pride (lol).

Joe is also the sales manager for Groundcover News. So if you're wanting to become a vendor, he can and will help you. He loves doing what he does. He has been in sales since he was 18

and he loves recruiting new people who really want to learn how to work legally.

He often stands at Cherry Republic, so everyone should go and talk to him there as he is a great person to talk to. He loves all music and he always has his music playing when he is working. Every day he listens to a different type of music. Yes, Joe sells the special issue with a sticker price of \$10 – he has been selling them since they first came out. It was his idea in the first place to have a \$10 paper. And watch out, Ann Arbor – he would like to get a \$20 paper out!

This man has helped me out and has made me so strong, I can't thank him enough. I really don't know where I would be at in life if I didn't have him. No matter what, I know that I can always talk to him about anything. He is my backbone and is helping me become a lady. And I can't wait until the day that I get to become his wife.

Thank you, baby, for everything that you do for me, for the community, for your peers and everyone that needs your help. Thank you for being you and never

changing for anyone. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for standing next to me and always being there for me even when I get on your nerves. You're the best man I could ever ask for and I couldn't imagine spending my life with anyone else. I love you with all my heart and once again, happy birthday. I hope you have the greatest day.

Love: Tabitha L., Vendor #360



Tabitha (right) tells us what Joe Woods, her fiancée, is really like.

Holistic enlightenment & Boober Tours

by Kevin Spangler

Groundcover Vendor #307

When you do the right things in life, amazing things start to happen, and when you do the wrong things in life bad things begin to happen. I am a prime example of making the wrong decisions for a majority of my life. I always tried to do what I thought was right, but sometimes we don't know the actual difference between

right and wrong. Sometimes the wrong decision is disguised as what seems in the moment to be perfectly okay. When you have the ability to take a minute to meditate on your decisions and be honest with your heart, you tend to make better decisions and your life path becomes easier.

I used to do psychedelics as a part of what I called spiritual enlightenment.

see BOOBER, page 11

Miriam Lindsey, 1950-2018

continued from page 3

of him and her concern for Roscoe helped her avoid confrontations.

Roscoe is now back with Miriam's daughter Nikki and the twin granddaughters of whom she was so proud. Miriam held off the cancer, which took her life, long enough to learn that both twins will be attending the

University of Michigan this fall.

Miriam is survived by her daughter Nicole Johnson and son Ramon Lindsey of Ypsilanti and two siblings, older sister Merquise Parker of Chicago, IL and younger brother Mechelle Lindsey of Corcoran, CA.

Anyone wishing to honor Miriam's memory is invited to make a tax-

deductible gift toward a memorial bench in Nichols Arboretum. Tribute details should include "In memory of Miriam Lindsey" and can be made by following the link:

<https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#!/env/mbgna/tribute>.

In the later years, Roscoe (Groundcover Vendor #6 1/2) was always at Miriam's side when she was out selling and Miriam always made sure customers could tell at a glance that she was selling Groundcover News.



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Poor People's Campaign

continued from page 2

After draining his life savings, Baxter could no longer pay his mortgage and could not sell because the housing crash had left his house worth less than he owed. The bank repossessed it.

Baxter was left with Social Security disability payments and \$20 of monthly food assistance, too little for a decent quality of life. He was then further disabled by poverty.

We are all only temporarily able, Baxter says, and the safety net we assume is there for us is often full of holes. Most of us will one day be knocked down by a disease or accident or grow old and infirm and this world is not accommodating.

Is a moral revival necessary to save the heart and soul of our democracy? It would seem it is. Our legislature and Congress fail to protect us and our environment. Economic exploitation is perpetuated by blaming the poor. Drug addiction, suicide and mass shootings



Even the rain did not keep some 200 Poor People's Campaign protesters from the capitol on May 21. Civil disobedience led to 16 arrests at the Lansing DHHS office.

run rampant. The PPC is mobilizing people from all strata of our country to work together to make systemic changes to bring equality and justice

for all. At some point in our lives, we will all benefit from such changes.

Ann Arbor city council votes to re-purchase "Y" lot

by Will Shakespeare

Groundcover Vendor #258

The "Y" Lot – the 0.8-acre site next to the Blake Transit Center along William Street, across from the downtown library – is vacant, prime downtown Ann Arbor real-estate property. Four years ago, the City sold the property to developer Dennis Dahlmann for \$5.2 million on the condition that he

would build mixed-use housing on the site within a period of four years.

When the developer failed to comply with his agreement with the City, Council tried to buy back the property for \$4.2 million. Dahlmann sued the City. As a result, the City held hearings and debates on the future use of the lot.

At a special session held on May 1, 2018, Council voted on two key issues:

(1) Whether to re-purchase the "Y" Lot from Dennis Dahlmann; and (2) Set the goal of affordable housing on "Y" Lot.

On the question of repurchasing the property, Council needed a supermajority to pass the resolution. On May 1, three reluctant Council members cast "Yes" votes along with the seven members who were already in favor

and the re-purchase proposal passed. The resolution for affordable housing on the "Y" Lot also passed.

City Council member Zachary Ackerman and Mayor Christopher Taylor co-sponsored the resolution, which envisioned building affordable housing on the "Y" Lot property. They believe that there is an urgent need for affordable housing in downtown Ann Arbor, and that low-income people cannot afford to live in the City where they work.

Affordable housing, they contend, is in the public interest. According to Taylor, "a lot of people have been priced out of Ann Arbor, making affordable housing a critical and an urgent need." This is reminiscent of what urban planner and writer Richard Florida said recently in a speech titled, "The Coming Urban Crisis in Ann Arbor," in which he warned of a "new urban crisis" that's rapidly pricing out the middle-class.

City Council member Jane Lumm opposed the resolution, contending that it did not make economic sense to build affordable housing on the city's most expensive real estate property.

Dahlmann dropped the suit when the City agreed to re-purchase the lot for \$5.2 million. Affordable housing proponents hope to recover the 100 units that were lost when the old Y was razed.

COMMON CYCLE

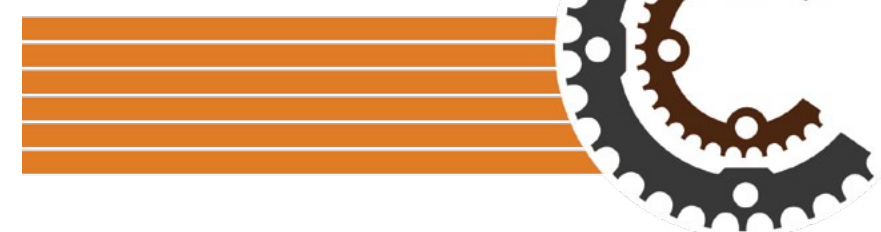
Community Bicycle Repair and Education

Sundays, April-October

11AM-3PM

Sunday Artisan Market in Kerrytown
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Maintenance courses and workshops offered year-round



commoncycle.org | info@commoncycle.org



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Sunday 7 am, 8:30 am,
10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 5 pm

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www.StFrancisA2.com 734-821-2100

www.GroundcoverNews.org



Remembering Anne Frank and the WWII Holocaust

by Will Shakespeare

Groundcover Vendor #258

Anne Frank was born on June 12, 1929 – the same year as America’s Civil Rights Leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Anne Frank’s story is a story of injustice. And as Dr. King said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

To fully understand Anne Frank’s family story and the horrors of the World War II Holocaust, one has to turn the pages of history and shine some light on major events in Germany after World War I and the election which brought Hitler and the Nazi Party to power in the summer of 1933.

Germany suffered a humiliating defeat in World War I. Hitler’s Nazi Party believed that Germans were biologically superior to other races. They were convinced that their race was being threatened with extinction if they had to mix and compete with people who they consider “inferior races,” such as Jews. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Nazi Party “saw Jews as a biological threat to the German (Aryan) race.”

When Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, the first anti-Jewish laws were established. Anne Frank’s parents decided that the family would move from Germany to the Netherlands. On May 10, 1940 Hitler’s army invaded the Netherlands. The German army also invaded Belgium and France.

In order to isolate the Jews, they started to register them as a group. Because he was Jewish, Otto Frank (Anne’s dad) was no longer allowed to own a business.

Anne Frank received a diary for her 13th birthday on June 12, 1942. She kept a diary of the horrors of war, the experience of people around her and all the mundane events that took place in her school community. In her diary, Anne Frank recalled what happened after Germany invaded the Netherlands:

“After May 1940, the good times were few and far between. First, there was the war, then the capitulation, and then

the arrival of the Germans, which is when the trouble started for the Jews.”

On July 5, 1942, Anne’s older sister, Margot, received a notice to report for deportation to a forced labor camp. The family went into hiding the next day. They hid from the Nazis for two years. The hiding place, called “The Secret Annex,” was at the back of a warehouse. On July 13, 1942, the Van Pels, another Jewish family originally from Germany, joined the Frank’s family. On November 16, 1942, Fritz Pfeiffers, the eighth and final resident of the Secret Annex, joined the Frank and Van Pels families.

On August 4, 1944, residents of the Secret Annex were betrayed. They were arrested and taken to the Police Station in Amsterdam. Eventually, they were taken to Westbork Transit Camp before they were transported in a sealed cattle car to Auschwitz, Poland, separated by gender.

On October 1944, Anne, Margot and Mrs. Van Pels were transported to the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, Germany. Anne’s mother Edith was kept behind in Auschwitz-Birkenau where she died on January 6, 1945. Otto Frank was liberated from Auschwitz by the Russian Army on January 27, 1945. He was taken to Odessa, and then to France before he was allowed to travel to Amsterdam on June 3, 1945.

Sadly, Anne and Margot Frank died at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp within days of each other, shortly before British troops liberated the camp. Anne died of Typhus and starvation in March 1945. Otto knew that his wife was dead, but he did not know that his daughters died, too. On October 24, 1945, Otto Frank received a letter informing him that his daughters died at Bergen-Belsen and he received Anne’s diary from Miep Gies, a former friend and neighbor. Miep told Otto Frank that she found the diary after the Frank’s family was arrested and hoped to return it to Anne.

In 1947, 1,500 copies of Anne Frank’s diary were published in Amsterdam. As of today, more than 25 million copies have been sold and translated into 73 languages. Historians say that Anne

Frank kept a diary from June 12, 1942 to August 1, 1944. She wrote for herself and for her personal record.

When Dutch Diplomat Gerrit Bolkestein, who was on exile in London, announced in a radio broadcast that Dutch residents should record their suffering under the Nazis, Anne Frank was impressed. Bolkestein mentioned the need to collect and preserve letters and diaries. Anne decided that when the war ended, she would publish a book based on her diary. Subsequently, she began to re-write her diary. She came up with several versions of her journal entries. The following are some notable entries:

“Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I’ve never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on, neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a 13-year-old girl.”

“It is amazing how much these generous and unselfish people do risking their own lives to help and save others.”

“The best example of this is our own helpers, who have managed to pull us through so far, and will hopefully bring us safely to shores.”

“Paper has more patience than people.”

“Now I’m back to the point that prompted me to keep a diary in the first place: I don’t have a friend!”

“Let me put it more clearly, since no one will believe that a thirteen-year-old girl is completely alone in the World. And I am not! I have loving parents and a sixteen-year-old sister, and there are about 30 people I can call friends. I have a throng of admirers who can’t keep their adoring eyes off me.”

“I can’t bring myself to talk about anything but ordinary everyday things.”

“Let me be myself and then I am satisfied. I know that I am a woman with inward strength and plenty of courage.”

Life Magazine editors who wrote about Anne Frank in the 1950s said that her diary was a powerful and personal chronicle of the Holocaust. Her memoir



Anne Frank’s story and that of the Holocaust are retold in honor of her June birthday.

was a message of hope and courage in the face of adversity.

The message of the Holocaust Memorial Museums and in the mouths of Holocaust survivors continues to be, “NEVER AGAIN!” The story must be told!! Thankfully, there were survivors. Holocaust survivor and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl told the story of his experience in Nazi Death Camps. His famous book, “Man’s Search for Meaning,” argued that “we cannot avoid suffering, but we can choose how we cope with it, and move forward with renewed purpose.”

Dr. Irene Butler, a retired U-M professor of Public Health, wrote in her new book, “Shores Beyond Shores: From Holocaust to Hope,” of her experiences during the war. She had lived in the same Amsterdam neighborhood as Anne Frank and saw her again briefly in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp but did not know her well. Ever since, Butter has dedicated her life to bridging divides and helping people find their commonality.

In addition to the Allied Forces and the Soviet Liberation Forces, compassionate individuals like Oskar Schindler and Raoul Wallenberg helped to rescue thousands of Jews from the Holocaust.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has concluded that approximately 6 million Jewish lives perished in the Holocaust. Anne Frank was among the one million children who died in Europe’s Nazi Concentration Camps. In our imagination, we will often wonder who she would be today if Anne Frank had survived the Holocaust.

Sudoku

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9	2					1			4
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				5				1	
5		8						7	3
	3							4	
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	5				8				
	9	3		2		5			
7			9					3	1

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.
- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
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- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

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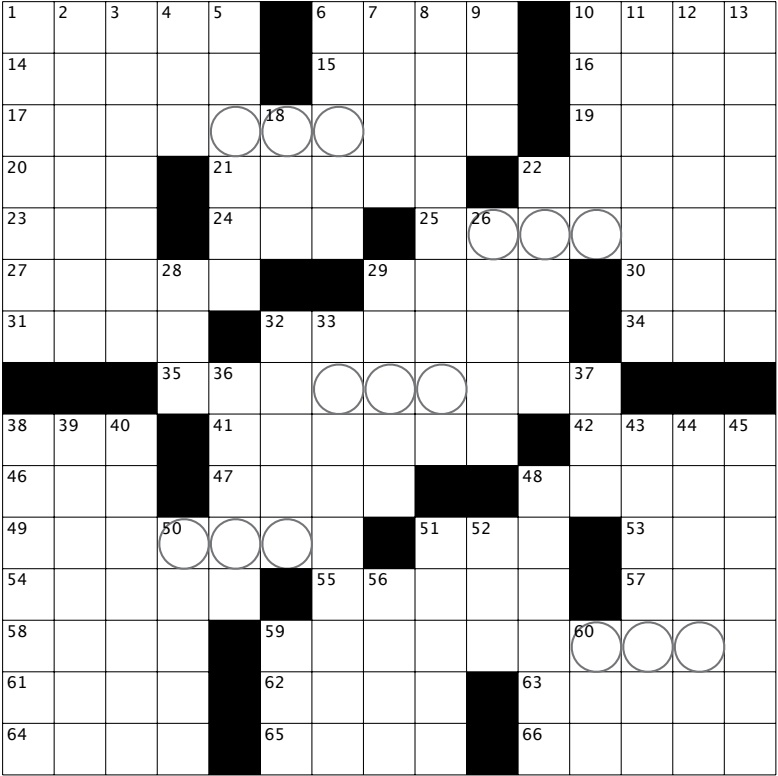
Look Inside Peter A. Collins

ACROSS

- Remove finish from
- Some are circular
- Cereal box rank
- A—one
- At the peak
- Fit of fever
- Maze runner
- Part of RFK: Abbr.
- Business mag
- Mammoth feature
- Alberta national park
- Jefferson Davis org.
- Clairvoyant skill: Abbr.
- Kung Fu, for one
- Swiss Alp
- Realtor's goal
- "__ tu" (Verdi aria)
- Wine glass part
- Kutcher of "Punk'd"
- Kama Sutra subject
- Antepentultimate driving place
- Big name in trucks
- Act as a go-between
- Spheres
- Fall name
- Closes, as a deal
- Brew in a teapot
- Hefty purchase
- __ fly (RBI producer)
- Lenten purchase
- Advised strongly
- "Gymnopedies" composer Erik
- Ad __
- Whoppers
- Some special agents
- Land measure
- Naturalist John
- Hint
- Remainder
- Hockey Hall-of-Famer Mikita
- Passover meal

DOWN

- Does an electrician's job
- It might be rapid
- Heart protector



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- "The way I see it", for short
- Stout relative?
- Began to take notice
- Heaps
- Cubicle sharers
- Observe
- Gold measurement
- Great pains
- Bangers and beans, and such
- "Stranger Things" distributor
- "__ longa, vita brevis"
- Musberger behind a mike
- Isolated
- A couple of letters from Mom?
- "__ clothed with strength and dignity": Proverbs
- Giving the boot
- Watches from a distance, in a way
- Trojan war epic
- With 52-Down, nonsense talk
- Pump option
- Sloth cousin
- Some big deals
- One with freckles, often
- "Lemonade" artist
- Ghost
- What boxers might pick up
- Attack
- Outboard motor locale
- See 37-Down
- Big name in sports shoes
- MLB trade-makers
- GI chow

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Tattoos – not a new phenomenon



by Martin
Stolzenberg
Groundcover
Contributor

Tattoos, it seems, are all around us. The wearers usually proudly show them off by donning apparel that is designed to reveal their tattoos to all who pass. They seem to be a form of identification, a way of saying to the rest of the world, *Here I am. Aren't I beautiful?* That is, for the ones you can see. Heaven only knows how many more are hidden away in more intimate areas of the body.

To the casual observer, tattoos have become more and more popular. But they are not a new phenomenon. According to *The Smithsonian* of March 1, 2017, "Humans have marked their bodies with tattoos for thousands of years." Recently, tattoo patterns were found on an iceman dated at around 5,200 years old. Tattoos have also been found on women as far back as 4,000-3,500 BCE.

One theory is that the tattoos were considered an amulet to prevent harm

to women in childbirth in ancient Egypt. The tattooing instrument was a sharp point imbedded in a wooden handle. The color came from a dark or black pigment such as soot that was introduced into the pricked skin, but other cultures are believed to have used brighter colors.

Tattoos came to be used for different purposes, depending on the culture. The ancient Britons used them to mark a high status. Among the Greeks and Roman, tattoos – or "stigmata" as they were then called – marked someone as belonging either to a religious sect or to an owner (in the case of slaves), or even as a punitive measure to mark criminals.

Tattoos fell into temporary disfavor with the emergence of Christianity because they were felt to "disfigure that made in God's image" and were ultimately banned by the Emperor Constantine around A.D. 300.

But tattoos continued to function worldwide in other non-related societies, including present-day Peru, Chile, North America, China, Japan, and New Zealand as well as various cultures in Africa and Polynesia. In fact, James Cook's British expedition to Tahiti in

1769 introduced the term "tatatau" or "tattau," which gave rise to the modern term tattoo. This led to these marks becoming fashionable among Europeans, especially in the case of sailors and coal miners. These folks adopted prominent amulets that described their respective professions: anchors and miner's lamps.

According to *The Smithsonian*, "In many cases, it [the use of tattoos] seems to have sprung up independently as a permanent way to place protective or therapeutic symbols upon the body, as a means of marking people out into appropriate social, political or religious groups or simply as a form of self-expression or fashion statement."

While getting a tattoo can be painful, in the mid-18th century Native American women tattooed themselves to alleviate toothaches and arthritis in a manner similar to acupuncture. Actually, New York City is considered the birthplace of modern tattoos, because that is where Martin Hildebrandt set up shop to tattoo Union Civil War soldiers for identification purposes.

The first electric rotary tattoo instrument was invented in 1891. Eventually, the use of tattoos predominantly by sailors and blue-collar workers spread



Tattooing has been practiced for thousands of years, its function ranging from religious expression and ethnic identification to sheer aesthetics. Above: traditional henna art.

out from both coasts to the inland regions of the country.

Nevertheless, in the Victorian 19th century, tattoos became a fashion statement for socialites, "a fashionable flirt with the exotic," as the New York His-

see TATTOOS, page 11

Tattoos – not a new phenomenon

continued from page 10

torical Society called it. Royalty in England became willing participants. And it became a thing for women to do. So rather than go to tattoo parlors, tattoo artists made house calls. The New York World estimated that three-quarters of New York's fashionable ladies were inked at the turn of the century. Their favorite designs included butterflies, flowers and dragons.

Traveling circuses introduced tattooing to small towns. Performers posed with tattoos and they caught on with attendees. In the 1930s, when Social Security was introduced, people were so excited that they flocked to tattoo parlors to get their number inscribed on various parts of their anatomy.

The form suffered a setback in the 1960s, as a hepatitis outbreak blamed on a Coney Island, New York, tattoo artist prompted the New York City health department to temporarily ban the art. Tattooing was reinstated there in 1997.

Tattooing was still mostly associated with males, particularly bikers, until the 1970s, when female performers such as Janice Joplin made them popular among women. The

nature of the tattoos then changed from masculine objects to encompass more feminine, delicate ones. So, it is no surprise that here in the 21st century tattooing is again popular with actresses, models and socialites as well as with men.

Interesting statistics about the tattoo craze:

- According to a Harris Poll, approximately 30 percent of adults aged 18 or over have a least one tattoo. Tats are most prevalent among young Millennials and the Generation X, with 47 percent claiming to have them. It drops off to about 10-13 percent among Baby Boomers and the older.
- Women (31 percent) are a bit more likely than men (27 percent) to have tattoos.
- According to the website The Vanishing Tattoo, the most prevalent locations for tattoos are, in descending order: lower back, wrist, foot, ankles, armbands, back, arm, chest, breast and neck.
- There are plenty of opportunities to get a tattoo. There are approximately 21,000 tattoo parlors scattered across the country. They are more prevalent than McDonald's, which counted 14,100 outlets in 2016.
- The cost of a tattoo starts at \$100-300 per

hour and, depending on the size, it may augment to thousands of dollars. If one wants a custom tattoo, the price can start from \$50-300.

Over time, people have had interesting things to say about tattoos, reflecting a wide range of outlooks:

"A tattoo is an affirmation that this body is yours to have and to enjoy while you are here. Nobody else can control what you do with it."

– Don Ed Hardy, *Prison Tattoos*

"Your body is a temple, but how long can you live in the same house before you redecorate?"

– Anonymous

"Tattoos are permanent and a life commitment."

– Charles Bennington

"Show me a man with a tattoo and I'll show you a man with an interesting past"

– Jack London

Judging by history, tattoos are no flash in the pan. They obviously fill some basic need or else they wouldn't have been so prevalent in so many cultures and survived so long. It looks like they are here to stay.



Boober Tours & doing the right thing

continued from page 6

So, lo and behold the opportunity came into my life recently to possibly take this spiritual drug, offered to me out of the blue. It was almost a perfect opportunity to embark on this chemically induced deep spiritual state, but at this point in my life I cannot afford any poor decisions. I believe that because I meditate daily, I am connected spiritually in my heart and I was able to follow that guidance and turn down the opportunity. My aspirations and goals are set very high and I feel like taking the psychedelic would have amounted to taking a step backwards. Even though it is a spiritual drug that has been known to help in recovery from addictions by bringing on a true self-awareness, it is still a drug, and in

my heart this would be retracting my success potential.

This month I attended arc pyramid meditation, which involves sitting in a copper-grounded pyramid (Faraday cage) while listening to Solfeggio frequencies – musical notes that have great healing power. I also did a session of gong therapy (sound therapy) and healing crystals at Healing River Therapy, which raised my vibration and heightened my awareness to new opportunities with my reality changing in front of my eyes. I have experienced enlightenment through chemical means and through using other holistic means, and I can say that brainwave entrainment through

sound, meditation and healing elements from the earth is a more solid, longer-lasting enlightenment reality than the more common alternatives, with no possible adverse consequences.

This month we at Boober Tours are attending a Raise the Bar class to recognize and prevent sexual assault on the cabs and help keep the community safe. Jeff Goodrich and I are working tirelessly on the "Boober-Ride" app to connect our patrons with Boober instantaneously when a ride is needed. The app will work directly with your

Google Assistant, so ask your phone (or watch) for a Boober Ride and have a conversation with our virtual assistant to come and pick you up! We have many great ideas to go along with the functionality of the app so it is an exciting time!

We are putting a proposal together to rehabilitate a dilapidated building in Ann Arbor and turn it into a natural healing center where members learn how to raise their vibrations and to change their habits and lives to be a positive force in this world.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

9	2	6	3	8	1	7	5	4
3	1	5	7	9	4	6	8	2
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6	5	1	4	3	8	9	2	7
4	9	3	1	2	7	5	6	8
7	8	2	9	5	6	4	3	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	T	R	I	P	S	A	W	S	C	A	P	N
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17	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	O	R	Y	R	O
20	I	N	C	T	R	U	N	K	B	A	N	F
23	C	S	A	E	S	P	A	R	T	I	A	L
27	E	I	G	E	R	S	A	L	E	E	R	I
31	S	T	E	M	A	S	H	T	O	N	S	E
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38	R	A	M	L	I	A	I	S	E	O	R	B
46	E	V	E	I	N	K	S	S	T	E	E	P
49	G	A	R	B	A	G	E	S	A	C	D	Y
54	U	R	G	E	D	S	A	T	I	E	H	O
58	L	I	E	S	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E
61	A	C	R	E	M	U	I	R	T	R	A	C
64	R	E	S	T	S	T	A	N	S	E	D	E



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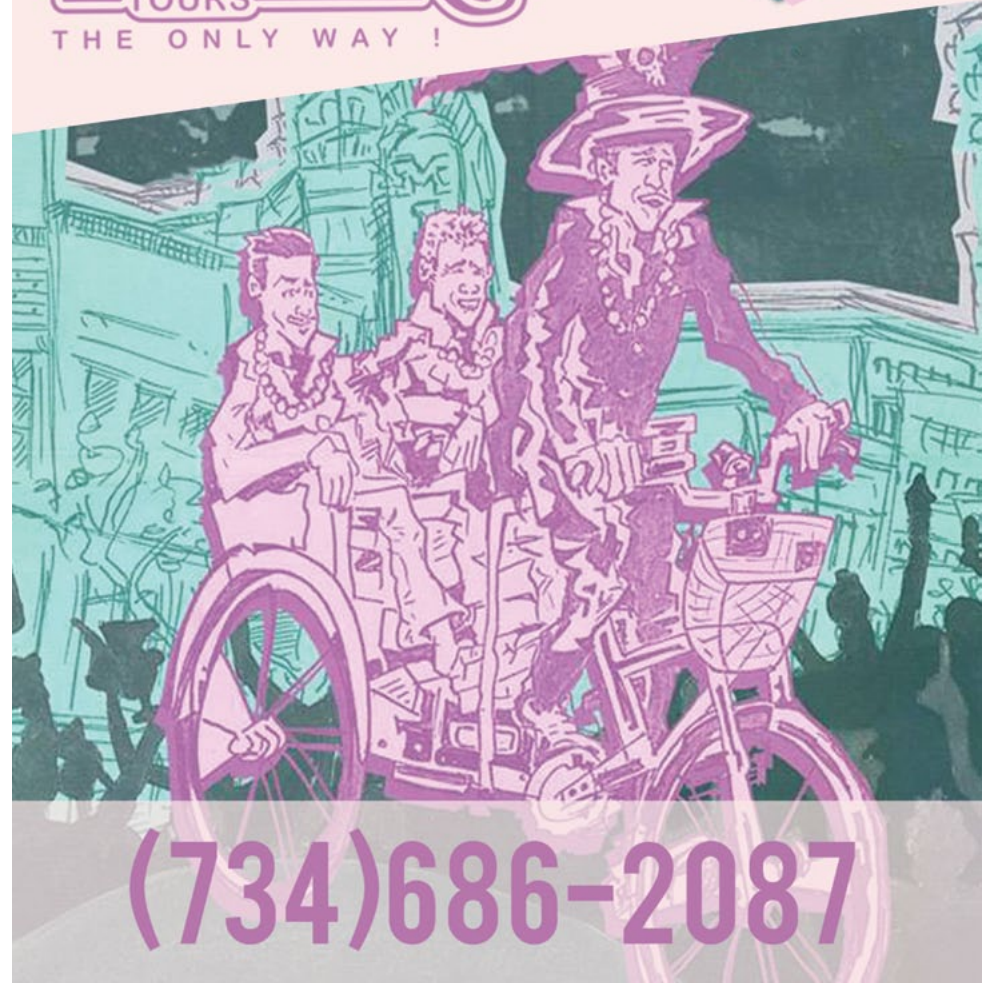
*Easy cheesy
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page 5.*



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